

An aerial photograph of a winding river cutting through a rugged, layered canyon landscape. The river flows through deep, narrow gorges, with the surrounding rock walls showing distinct horizontal strata. The colors of the rock range from light tan and yellow to deep reds and purples, indicating different geological formations. Sparse green vegetation is visible on the canyon walls and along the riverbanks. The overall scene is one of dramatic natural beauty and geological complexity.

# Fully Implementing Colorado's Water Plan

Metro Basin Round Table  
August 8, 2019

# The Challenge

- ▶ Colorado's population expected to reach 8.5 million in 2050
- ▶ How to sustain Colorado's character and quality of life in the face of increasing demand for water and diminishing supply?

# Funding Coalition Formation

- ◀ 2018 Keystone Policy Center convening of stakeholders
- ◀ Coalition Objectives:
  - ◀ Funding Needs (\$100m annually)
  - ◀ Fund Distribution and Governance
  - ◀ Raising Public Awareness
  - ◀ Potential Sources of Funding

# Coalition Management Committee Members

Kelly Brough – Denver Metro Chamber

Terry Fankhauser – Colorado Cattlemen's Association

Jon Goldin-Dubois – Western Resource Advocates

Tom Gougeon – Gates Family Foundation

Ted Kowalski – Walton Family Foundation

Andy Mueller – Colorado River District

Kevin Bommer – Colorado Municipal League

Kelly Nordini- Conservation Colorado

Nathan Fey- Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office

American Rivers  
American Whitewater  
Business for Water  
Club 20  
Colorado Cattlemen's Assoc  
Colorado Contractor's Assoc  
Colorado Forum  
Colorado Mountain College  
Colorado Municipal League  
Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office  
Colorado River District  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Colorado Water Trust  
Conservation Colorado  
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce  
Environmental Defense Fund

Fish Pond  
Greenway Foundation  
Lower South Platte Water  
Conservancy District  
Northern Water Conservancy District  
Outdoor Industry Alliance  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Trust for Public Land  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation  
Partnership  
Upper Gunnison River Water  
Conservancy District  
WaterNow Alliance  
Western Resource Advocates

# Funding Needs & Distribution align to Colorado's Water Plan

- ▶ Healthy Rivers
- ▶ Watershed Health and Water Quality
- ▶ Conservation and Efficiency
- ▶ Productive Agriculture
- ▶ Infrastructure
- ▶ Colorado Compact Obligations

*Approximately equal over time with early emphasis on CO Compact Obligations*

# Colorado has momentum to support investment

- ▶ Passage of DD Sports betting in 2019
- ▶ Passage of St Vrain Lefthand Canyon and River District local initiatives in 2020 that can be used at matching to fund Water Plan projects in those basins
- ▶ Supportive legislative funding in 2019 and 2020
- ▶ All proponents point to broad stakeholder support addressing collective issues as central to passage

# Without sustained support the plan is just a plan

- ◀ Recent successes are one small piece
- ◀ Relying on annual discretionary funding from the legislature is risky
- ◀ Potential for once-in-a-lifetime federal funding to address Colorado River Basin issues in 2022 will be coming to Western states
  - ◀ Colorado needs to demonstrate leadership and broad support to receive this funding